



U.S. Department of Justice

Office of Legislative Affairs

Office of the Assistant Attorney General

Washington, D.C. 20530

February 5, 2001

MEMORANDUM FOR THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

FROM:

Sheryl L. Walter

SUBJECT:

Weekly Report for February 5, 2001 - February 9, 2001

THE WEEK AHEAD

Deutch: Criminal Division Deputy Assistant Attorney General Bruce Swartz and Internal Security Section Chief John Dion, with OLA, met with Senate Intelligence Committee staff on February 5 to discuss the John Deutch pardon by President Clinton on January 20; the Committee is considering legislative action to clarify current law on mishandling classified information. (Walter)

PanAm 103: Deputy Chief of International Terrorism Brian Murtagh from the Criminal Division's Terrorism and Violent Crime Section and OLA met with Senate Intelligence Committee staff on February 5 to discuss last week's verdict in this case. (Walter)

Los Alamos Hard Drive Case: The FBI is to brief staff members of Senator Kyl on the FBI's decision to close its investigation in this case on February 7; an OLA representative will be present at the briefing. (Walter)

Pipeline Safety: This week, the Senate may consider S. 235, a gas and oil pipeline safety bill that would increase inspections of pipelines and increase penalties for safety violations. A similar measure passed the Senate last year but got stalled in the House. DOJ worked last year to put many of the bill's current enforcement provisions in place. (Pearlman)

Indianapolis Baptist Temple: On February 6, OLA will accompany staff from the Terrorism and Violent Crime Section and the U.S. Marshals Service to a briefing for House Judiciary staff. The Committee submitted a written request for an oversight briefing on the pending seizure of this property by the U.S. Marshals Service. (Daley)

Airline Mergers: On February 7, the Senate Judiciary Committee's Subcommittee on Antitrust, Business Rights and Competition (DeWine, Chair) will hold a hearing on the American Airlines/TWA merger and whether that transaction and other consolidations adversely affected competition. The Department, as of February 5, has not been asked to provide a witness. (Slover, Pryor)

Bankruptcy: The Senate Judiciary Committee (Hatch, Chair) will hold a hearing on Bankruptcy Reform legislation on Thursday, February 8. The House Judiciary Committee (Sensenbrenner, Chair) will hold two days of hearings on February 7 and 8, on H.R. 333, the Bankruptcy Abuse Prevention and Consumer Protection Act of 2001. The Department, as of February 5, has not been asked to participate in either of the hearings. (Wilson)

Presidential Pardons of Marc Rich and Pincus Green: The House Government Reform Committee (Burton, Chair) will hold a hearing on February 8 about President Clinton's pardons of fugitives Marc Rich and Pincus Green. The Committee has invited former Acting Attorney General Eric Holder, former White House Counsel Beth Nolan, former Assistant U.S. Attorney Sandy Weinberg (who handled the investigation in the Southern District of New York, which led to the Rich and Green indictment in 1983), and Jack Quinn. We have provided the Committee with some of the requested information about this matter and expect to provide additional information before the hearing. It is not yet clear what, if any, documents will be provided in response to the Committee's requests.

The Senate Judiciary Committee has postponed its hearing to Wednesday, February 14th, and we will confer with staff this week about their preparation needs. (Burton, Thorsen)

THE WEEK IN REVIEW

Nominations: On February 1, your nomination to be Attorney General was confirmed by the Senate by a vote of 58-42, with eight Democratic Senators voting for the nomination. (Scott-Finan)

Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA): Chairman Burton of the House Committee on Government Reform met with DEA Administrator Donnie Marshall on January 31, 2001, concerning the recent reassignment of 16 SES personnel within DEA. After an initial one-on-one discussion, Mr. Burton and Mr. Marshall were joined by Committee staff and representatives of DEA and OLA. Mr. Marshall assured the Chairman and his staff that the reassignments were necessary for better management of the DEA and not retaliatory in any way. Government Reform Committee staff have advised OLA that interviews of DEA personnel on this matter will not be necessary at this time. (Tanner, Thorsen)

Diallo Case: On January 31, OLA notified 21 Members of Congress, both House and Senate, all of whom had either written to, called, or met with Department officials, that the Department had completed its investigation into the shooting death of Amadou Diallo and had concluded that federal criminal civil rights charges against the New York City police officers who fatally shot Mr. Diallo were not warranted. (Scott-Finan)